

fixture while the steel is hardening. The steel is kept mild in the areas in which it is to be machined, for example punched. Inserts in the tools are used to prevent rapid cooling of the steel sheet and thereby a martensitic structure in the areas adjacent the inserts. The same effect can be obtained by recesses in the tools so that there will be a gap between the sheet steel and the tools.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 3, without prejudice.

Please add the following newly presented claims.

--9. A method according to Claim 1 characterized by keeping a clearance between the tools and said areas for preventing rapid cooling thereof.--

--10. A method according to Claim 2 characterized by keeping a clearance between the tools and said areas for preventing rapid cooling thereof.--

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted for the purpose of placing the application in better condition for examination.

It is submitted that Applicant has provided a new and unique Method of Producing a Sheet Steel Product such as a Reinforcement Element in a Larger Structure. It is submitted that the claims, as now presented, are fully distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued at an early date.